Inquiry regarding implementation of NREGP

1000. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Rural Employment Guarantee Programme, being run in the country, has gone ashtray;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is also a fact that labourers could get about 40 days of work instead of 100 days of guaranteed employment;

(d) if so, whether Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(e) if so, the results thereof;

(f) whether the laudable features of the programme, such as provision of drinking water, sheds for children of the labourers and first aid, are nowhere in sight; and

(g) if so, the steps Government have taken to address the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, efforts are on to strengthen the processes under NREGA.

(c) Employment is to be provided based on demand upto 100 days. Employment availed varies from household to household.

(d) and (e) Do not arise

(f) No, Sir.

(g) Does not arise. However, there are clear instructions to provide worksite facilities as per provisions of Act and the expenditure is chargeable to administrative cost of the programme.

Higher BPL population in NE region

1001. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the population of BPL is higher than the

National average in the NE region, stating the present total figure of such families in Assam; and

(b) the initiatives to bring their level at par with the national average, and the funds allocated during the last financial year for the purpose in that State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) The estimation of poverty in the country including Assam and other North Eastern States is done by the Planning Commission on the basis of Sample Survey of Consumer Expenditure of National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO). The poverty ratio of Assam is used for all other North Eastern States of Arunacha! Pradesh, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura and Sikkim. According to 1999-2000 poverty estimates of Planning Commission, 94.55 lakh total rural and urban population which also includes 92.17 lakh persons of rural areas, were Below the Poverty Line in Assam which works out 36.09% of the total population and 40.04% rural population as against all India percentage of 27.09% of rural population. The reasons for higher incidence of poverty in Assam could be the lack of productive employment, migrant labour and also lack of infrastructure.

(b) Ministry of Rural Development is implementing a number of poverty alleviation and rural development programmes in the country including the North Eastern region. Minimum of 10% of the total allocation of resources of all programmes of different Ministries are to be allocated to the North Eastern States irrespective of the size of their population and in case this allocation is not released/utilized, balance of funds is given to the Department of North Eastern for using the funds for development of North Eastern States.

During the year 2005-06, an amount of Rs. 1225.73 crore was released to Assam under various programmes of the Ministry which was 98.24% of total Central allocation to Assam for the programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development and balance of 1.76% was released to North Eastern non-lapsable pool.